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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/076,188

Examiner

Thu Ha T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

CALKINS ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed 02/14/02-02/11/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-35.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/02,7/03,2/4,2/5
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


SALEH NAJJAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 1-35 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The examiner has found that the prior art of record does not appear to teach or suggest or render obvious the claimed limitations in combination with limitations as recited in independent claims and subsequent dependent claims. The prior art fails to teach or suggest a system and method comprising: a network bus electrically connected to at least one network device; and a network controller for directing communications with the at least one remote device via said network bus, wherein said network controller is capable of selectively operating in one of a synchronous mode and an asynchronous mode, wherein said network controller is capable of transmitting messages and clock signals via said network bus in the synchronous mode, and wherein said network controller is capable of transmitting messages at a predetermined bit rate without any accompanying clock signals via said network bus in the asynchronous mode; and at least one network device interface element electrically connected between said network bus and respective remote devices, wherein said at least one network device interface element is capable of transmitting and receiving messages via said network controller, each network device interface comprising: a local oscillator capable of issuing clock signals having at least one frequency for controlling a rate at which said network device interface element transmits and receives messages; and a spread-spectrum clock for receiving the clock signals issued by said local oscillator and for spreading energy of the clock signals over a plurality of frequencies wider than the at least one frequency of the

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local oscillator so as to at least partially limit electromagnetic emissions from said local oscillator are novel, thus the invention is patentable.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

3. The examiner as of general interest cites the following references:

- a) Lacey, USPN 6,651,181.
- b) Schmidt, US. Pub. No. 2003/0014682.
- c) Smith et al., US. Pub. No. 2005/0141594.
- d) Poimboeuf et al., USPN 5,764,965.
- e) Schell, US. Pub. No. 2004,0071249.
- f) Mahany, US. Pub. No. 2004/0077352.
- g) Curtis et al., USPN 5,223,806.
- h) Andersson et al., USPN 5,671,249.
- i) Konz et al., US. Pub. No. 2003/0154316.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thu Ha Nguyen, whose telephone number is (571)

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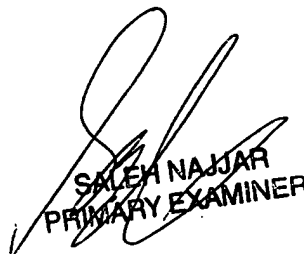
272-3989. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

5. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar, can be reached at (571) 272-4006.

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ThuHa Nguyen

September 15, 2005


SALEH NAJJAR
PRIMARY EXAMINER